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Reply to Office Action of Apr. 22, 2005

REMARKS

By the above amendments, applicant has amended claims 1 and 13 without prejudice. New claims 16 and 17 have been added. No new matter has been entered.

Drawings

FIG. 7 has been renamed to FIG. 8.

New FIG. 7 has been added. No new matter has been entered.

New FIG. 7 shows the feature of "embossments may be arranged on an emitting surface continuously side-by-side in rows and columns," as claimed in claim 1 and disclosed in paragraph [0020] of the specification as originally filed.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 8 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/731,042.

Applicant hereby obviates all the provisional double patenting rejections by submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakahashi et al., U.S. patent No. 6,767,105.

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In response to this rejection, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to patentably distinguish it from the cited reference. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to claim 1 for the following reasons:

Amended claim 1 recites “[a] light guide plate, comprising: a transparent plate having a light emitting surface, and a bottom surface opposite to the light emitting surface; and a plurality of optical embossments arranged on the light emitting surface continuously side-by-side in rows and columns.”

Nakahashi discloses a light guide plate comprising a transparent plate having a light emitting surface and a bottom surface opposite to the light emitting surface, and a plurality of optical embossments arranged across the light emitting surface in rows and columns with intervening spaces therebetween.

The subject matter of amended claim 1 highlighted above is now more explicitly expressed in amended paragraph [0020] of the specification. No new matter has been entered, because paragraph [0020] as originally filed contained the same subject matter. Applicant submits that Nakahashi does not teach or suggest the light guide plate comprising “a plurality of optical embossments arranged on the light emitting surface continuously side-by-side in rows and columns,” as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, whether considered alone or in combination with Nakahashi or each other, do not teach or suggest these optical embossments either.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be both novel and unobvious over Nakahashi, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, or any combination thereof. Reconsideration and

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withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5-7 all depend directly from claim 1. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2 and 5-7 are respectfully requested.

Applicant has also amended independent claim 13 to patentably distinguish it from the cited references. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to claim 13 for the following reasons:

Amended claim 13 recites “[a] backlight system, comprising: a light guide plate including a transparent plate having a light emitting surface, a bottom surface opposite to the light emitting surface, and a plurality of optical embossments evenly distributed on the light guide plate continuously side-by-side in rows and columns; and a light source arranged at a side of the light guide plate.”

Nakahashi discloses a light guide plate comprising a transparent plate having a light emitting surface and a bottom surface opposite to the light emitting surface, and a plurality of optical embossments arranged across the light emitting surface in rows and columns with intervening spaces therebetween.

The subject matter of amended claim 13 highlighted above is now more explicitly expressed in amended paragraph [0020] of the specification. No new matter has been entered, because paragraph [0020] as originally filed contained the same subject matter. Applicant submits that Nakahashi does not teach or suggest the light guide plate comprising “a plurality of optical embossments evenly distributed on the light guide plate continuously”

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side-by-side in rows and columns," as recited in amended claim 13. Moreover, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, whether considered alone or in combination with Nakahashi or each other, do not teach or suggest these optical embossments either.

Accordingly, amended claim 13 is submitted to be both novel and unobvious over Nakahashi, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, or any combination thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 are respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 15 both depend directly from claim 13. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14 and 15 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohkawa, U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0036729.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to claim 1 for the following reasons:

Amended claim 1 recites "[a] light guide plate, comprising: a transparent plate having a light emitting surface, and a bottom surface opposite to the light emitting surface; and a plurality of optical embossments arranged on the light emitting surface continuously side-by-side in rows and columns."

Ohkawa discloses a light guide plate 30 comprising a light emitting surface 33 and a bottom surface 34 opposite to the light emitting surface 33, and a plurality of optical embossments (PR) arranged in columns without any spaces therebetween.

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Applicant submits that Ohkawa does not teach or suggest the light guide plate comprising **"a plurality of optical embossments arranged on the light emitting surface continuously side-by-side in rows and columns,"** as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, whether considered alone or in combination with Ohkawa or each other, do not teach or suggest these optical embossments either.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be both novel and unobvious over Ohkawa, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, or any combination thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, 8, and 9 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 5, 8, and 9 are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to claim 13 for the following reasons:

Amended claim 13 recites "[a] backlight system, comprising: a light guide plate including a transparent plate having a light emitting surface, a bottom surface opposite to the light emitting surface, and a plurality of optical embossments evenly distributed on the light guide plate continuously side-by-side **in rows and columns**; and a light source arranged at a side of the light guide plate."

Ohkawa discloses a light guide plate comprising a light emitting surface and a bottom surface opposite to the light emitting surface, and a plurality of

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optical embossments (PR) arranged in columns without any spaces therebetween.

Applicant submits that Ohkawa does not teach or suggest the light guide plate comprising "a plurality of optical embossments evenly distributed on the light guide plate continuously side-by-side in rows and columns," as recited in amended claim 13. Moreover, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, whether considered alone or in combination with Ohkawa or each other, do not teach or suggest these optical embossments either.

Accordingly, amended claim 13 is submitted to be both novel and unobvious over Ohkawa, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, or any combination thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 are respectfully requested.

Claims 14 and 15 both depend directly from claim 13. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14 and 15 are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Saigo et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,926,033.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to claim 1 for the following reasons:

Amended claim 1 recites "[a] light guide plate, comprising: a transparent plate having a light emitting surface, and a bottom surface opposite to the light emitting surface; and a plurality of optical embossments arranged on the light emitting surface continuously side-by-side in rows and columns."

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Saigo discloses a light guide plate comprising a light emitting surface, a bottom surface opposite to the bottom surface, and optical embossments arranged on the light emitting surface side-by-side in rows and columns with intervening spaces therebetween.

Applicant submits that Saigo does not teach or suggest the light guide plate comprising "a plurality of optical embossments arranged on the light emitting surface continuously side-by-side in rows and columns," as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, whether considered alone or in combination with Saigo or each other, do not teach or suggest these optical embossments either.

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be both novel and unobvious over Saigo, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited, or any combination thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, 8, and 12 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 5, 8, and 12 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakahashi, in view of Uratani, U.S. Patent No. 5,317,430.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as to claims 3 and 4 for the following reasons:

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Applicant refers to and relies upon the above remarks regarding amended claim 1 and Nakahashi. Further, there is nothing in Uratani that teaches or suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art that he or she might or should provide the light guide plate comprising the optical embossments of amended claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be unobvious and patentable over Nakahashi in view of Uratani under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 3 and 4 both depend directly from claim 1. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 3 and 4 are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As detailed above, amended claim 1 is submitted to be novel, unobvious and patentable over all references listed in the Notice of References Cited. Claims 10 and 11 both depend indirectly from claim 1. Therefore applicant submits that the allowance of claims 10 and 11 should be maintained.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, new independent claims 16 and 17 have been added. New claim 16 is the equivalent of claim 10 rewritten in independent form

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including all the limitations of the original base claim 1 and the intervening claims 8 and 9. New claim 17 is the equivalent of claim 11 rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the original base claim 1 and the intervening claims 8 and 9. Accordingly, claims 16 and 17 should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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